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THE

MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

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### FIELD TRIPS FOR JULY-AUGUST

**Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13**, to McArthur-Burney Falls State Park and Lassen Volcanic National Park in Shasta County. Saturday's trip will take us to the nesting area of the Black Swifts. On a previous trip to this region we also saw 5 adult Bald Eagles on a nearby lake. Sunday's trip to Mt. Lassen should produce nesting Dippers as well as other birds. The distance from the Bay Area is 285 miles; allow at least 5½ hours driving time. On **Saturday** we shall meet at the McArthur-Burney Falls State Park Headquarters at **9 a.m.** and at the same place **Sunday at 8 a.m.** As on previous long-distance trips, there will be \$1 field trip charge for adults. Leader, A. Warren Larson, 525-9149.

**Saturday, August 23**, to Coyote Hills Regional Park near Newark. Meet at **8:45 a.m.** in the *big* parking lot south of the rocky hill. This field trip will be for beginners to study marsh and shore birds. Experienced members are invited to come and **help beginners**. To reach the park take the Jarvis Ave. exit from Highway 17 (Nimitz Freeway), turn right (north) on Newark Blvd. for about 1½ miles and then left on Patterson Ranch Road at the SRI Bio-Sonar Lab sign. Bring lunch. Leader, Mrs. Vi Homcm, 339-1886.

**SEPTEMBER BOAT TRIP—Saturday, September 6**, boat trip off Monterey. This trip has been planned to observe and study pelagic birds and mammals. Fare: \$7 per person, make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and send to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109, with a stamped, self-addressed envelope enclosed. **Deadline—August 15** (or earlier if boats are filled). Details will be sent with acknowledgment.

—MRS. VALERIA DACOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*

Golden Gate Audubon will not have evening meetings in July-August.

August is the best month to visit the Condor Observation site on Mt. Pinos according to John Borneman, Condor Naturalist. Mr. Borneman wrote "A Trip to Condor Country" in James Lane's **A Birdwatcher's Guide to Southern California**, published by L & P Photography, 2010 Hickory St., Santa Ana, CA 92707 (\$2.20 postpaid).

### COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

It is indeed gratifying to open with a "Thank You" to an elected official who has been on the conservationists' hot seat so long. But we can

thank Governor Reagan for his decision early in May to withhold his approval of the Dos Rios Dam, and this credit must be shared with some of his advisors in the State Public Resources Agency. We may now hope that some alternative to this monstrous flooding project will be found.

Since all-out war against DDT and other pollutants of Man's environment was declared by the National Audubon Society at the St. Louis Convention—it is significant that a bill proposing to ban the use of DDT statewide in California was introduced in May in the California legislature. This action by Senators John A. Nejedly of Walnut Creek and Lewis F. Sherman of Berkeley was prompted by the recent disclosures of damage to California's crab-fishing industry by DDT. Only Michigan among the States has actually passed such legislation to our knowledge, but Sweden bans DDT by a national law.

The damning evidence against DDT as an egg-destroyer in the metabolism of the vanishing American eagle, presented to the Convention by Audubon researcher Alexander Sprunt IV, is being repeated in studies of other fish-eating birds. The Brown Pelican appears to be another common victim, so if the rumpus raised by the crab decrease caused by DDT leads to a state ban on it our lovable lumbering fish-bagger may still have a chance. Even the fish-eating birds of the Gulf of California are now threatened by this egg-decline due to DDT, according to Curator Lewis Walker of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum with whom we talked at length in May. Pesticides are entering the Gulf with the Colorado River drainage, as well as lesser amounts from Mexican farming along the shores.

And, speaking of the Lower Colorado River, the powerful U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is about to reopen its attack on the aquatics and bank growth which shelter fish and waterfowl along its banks. Fish and game spokesmen, sportsmen and conservationists are trying to halt this purge. Your Conservation Chairman has visited some of these threatened areas and talked to many Arizona and California officials about it. Destruction of this growth—or phreatophytes control—is an operational policy which you may protest: to your Senator, Congressman, or the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.

While conservationists were battling to save the Bay, a precious slice of the proposed Point Reyes National Seashore was being marked off in 40 acre lots for subdivision. Mr. Sweet announced that he could no longer wait for the timberland exchange attempted by BLM or for Congressional action to buy his Lake Ranch. Loss of this ranch would place a wedge of private land between the Bolinas and Bear Valley sections of the Seashore. Since federal funds originally allotted to Pt. Reyes National Seashore purchases have long since been exhausted, Congressmen Clausen and Mailliard and Senators Murphy and Cranston have sponsored bills which would raise the ceiling on purchases for the Seashore.

Golden Gate Audubon members who vacation far afield this summer should spread the gospel about issues like the above and the need for a South San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge. Remember that it will take the support of Congressmen and Senators from other states to put over Cali-

fornia's conservation goals. Why not enlist the help of your friends and relatives and the park naturalists you meet in other states? Provide yourself with some brochures and facts before you leave home. Please keep in mind, however, that National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service naturalists and many state park personnel you meet and call on for publicity or other help toward conservation problems cannot operate as freely as you, Mr. and Mrs. Citizen. Certain restrictions may attend their public announcements, as you can well understand. But tell them, anyhow, and get them on your side. It might pay off!

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

NOTE—The next hearing on Utah Construction Company's application for a quarry permit on Apperson Ridge near Sunol Valley Regional Park will begin at **9 a.m. on Thursday, July 17**, in the Alameda County Administration Bldg., 1221 Oak St., Oakland. Conservationists should attend this meeting.

### **AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING NEWS**

The Audubon Nature Training Workshop described in the May **Gull** had a very successful season under the direction of Mrs. Valborg Thomas, assisted by three other volunteers. There were a total of 32 sessions, and 16 youth group leaders and 160 children each attended a four-session series. We are delighted to announce that Mrs. Thomas will direct the program next fall.

In the May **Gull** we mentioned the need for a coordinator, a public relations speaker, a librarian, and a person to visit schools to select children's science projects for display. We are glad to report that this article has brought us a librarian, who had become interested in the program through the presentation at the last annual dinner. So far the other needs remain unmet, and there is an additional urgent need for a volunteer who will relieve our instructor of a small but essential weekly clerical job. Any takers for next fall?

We are most grateful to Crown Zellerbach Foundation, which has again made a contribution to our program. The amount, \$250, will finance one four-session course next fall. We are also grateful for contributions from Mrs. H. P. Cantelow, and from Mrs. Rose Etta Sampson *in memory of* Mrs. Margaret Breslauer, and from Bertha Underhill *in memory of* Mary Underhill.



### **AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAAGOON**

**Under joint sponsorship of S. F. Bay Area**

**Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of  
Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.**

The San Francisco *Chronicle* of June 2nd published an editorial praising the dedication of Audubon Canyon Ranch as a Registered Na-

tional Natural Landmark and the generous grant of \$44,698 from the **Junior League of San Francisco** to enable the Ranch to expand the program of conservation education. "Both dedication and gift are meritorious events in recognition of the great value of the ranch to the general public."

Canyon Ranch also has received a gift of \$1,000 per year for three years to bring children from underprivileged Bay Area school districts to the Ranch for a day of outdoor conservation education. The gift is from a Boston foundation that prefers to be anonymous. One of the trustees visited the ranch and initiated the gift. Schools in low income areas needing financial help in visiting the Ranch should write Audubon Canyon Ranch, Shoreline Highway 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

The Ross Valley 4-H Club needs more Blue Chip stamp books to finish its **fourth** acre contribution Canyon Ranch. Please send stamps to Ross Valley 4-H Club, c/o Agricultural Extension Service, Civic Center, San Rafael 94903.

Integrated with the Great Blue Herons and Common Egrets in the redwood tree heronry at Canyon Ranch are newcomers—a pair of **Snowy** Egrets nesting for the first time on the Ranch. Helen Pratt discovered the nest with eggs on May 1.

We are grateful for the following gifts of remembrance to Canyon Ranch:

*In Memory of:*

*Gift of:*

Dr. C. Earle Clement .....	Frances W. Bartlett
Donald Reynolds .....	Miss Corrine Howard
Helen Burnett .....	Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. Landis
Mrs. Ione Seal .....	Mr. & Mrs. John A. Thomas
Timothy Thompson .....	Orinda Library Staff

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

### MAY FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

An immature Golden Eagle soared near a Turkey Vulture during the field trip to Mrs. Mary L. McCoy's ranch in Livermore, May 3-4. Phainopeplas, Lewis' woodpeckers, Bullocks' Orioles and Lazuli Buntings also highlighted the trips led by Erline Hevel and Aileen Pierson.

Both Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes sang for the hikers in Samuel P. Taylor State Park on May 17 on the field trip led by Dr. A. Laurence Curl.

On Memorial week-end at Yosemite many Black Swifts flew over the riding stables and orchard area. A Dipper preened on a bank near Happy Isles and a Brown Creeper took a sun bath on a tree limb. White-headed Woodpeckers were nesting at Crane Flat. Unfortunately, the Great Gray Owl did not appear—except in Warren Larson's movies Friday night. Mr. Larson and Dr. A. Laurence Curl were field trip leaders.

MRS. VALERIA G. DACOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*



OBSERVATIONS—May 9, Clarence Gervais observed Western Tanagers in the eucalyptus trees near Land's End golf course, San Francisco. May 13, Larry Curl found a Hooded Oriole one block from El Cerrito Plaza. In May a pair of Hooded Orioles visited Myra Browne's garden in San Leandro. On May 27 the Redwood Regional Park entrance sign displayed bees on one side and House Wrens nesting on the other side.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY will have a new Director on September 1—Mr. Fred C. Sibley, Wildlife Biologist with the Endangered Wildlife Research Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He has worked on the California Condor Project for more than three years. Mr. Sibley has a Master of Science degree from Cornell University, where he studied with Dr Charles G. Sibley (to whom he is not related).

### MORONGO VALLEY SANCTUARY PROPOSED

The June **Western Tanager**, bulletin of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, reports:

"Morongo Valley has long been a favorite field trip area for our Los Angeles chapter of the Audubon Society. Your Executive Board has explored the possibility of obtaining acreage there as a sanctuary; but we did not have the financial or legal ability to make the purchase. Now, the Nature Conservancy has taken on the responsibility of financing this purchase, with the understanding that various Audubon Society chapters and other interested people will raise the money to pay them back. Your own Society will make a sizeable contribution from funds largely obtained through your payment of dues; but it is urgent that those individuals who are fortunate enough to be well off financially should make contributions above and beyond what the Society gives. Summer Tanagers, Vermilion Flycatchers, Lucy's Warblers and other desert species may be observed here by our members if you will give this extra contribution toward buying this unique and irreplaceable acreage."

Los Angeles Audubon had a book sale in June to help raise money toward the purchase of this beautiful oasis in San Bernardino County.

GALAPAGOS FOR BIRDERS—Reservations are now open for exploration trips to the Galápagos Islands on the schooner **Te Vega** in March and April 1970, planned by Barry C. Bishop, Leo M. Le Bon and Allen P. Steck of Mountain Travel service in cooperation with the Sierra Club. The Galápagos cruise departing Los Angeles March 6 will appeal particularly to birders; a noted ornithologist will escort the group. Mountain Travel is a conservation-oriented organization formed to promote exploration and enjoyment of wilderness in all part of the world. Mr. Le Bon is an Audubon Society member. For further information write or phone Mountain Travel, 6201 Medau Place, Oakland, California 94611 (339-8310).

NATURAL HISTORY magazine of April 1969 published an article on "Gotham's Birds" by Dean Amadon—vignettes from the journal of a New York ornithologist, and "Bird Watching—An Abiding Avocation" by Robert Cushman Murphy—an ornitho-bibliographical essay.



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1969

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Director	Mrs. E. S. Gillette, Jr.	3212 Jackson St., San Francisco	94118	567-4037
Editor	Mrs. Violet Homem	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland	94611	339-1886
Field Trips Chairman	Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco	94109	931-5257
Membership Chairman	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco	94132	587-4163
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Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covell	2860 Delaware St., Oakland	94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.